

Message Text

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SUBJ: BREZHNEV VISIT TO BONN--ECONOMIC ASPECTS

REF: BONN 8282

1. SUMMARY. IN THE AFTERMATH OF THE BREZHNEV VISIT TO BONN, THERE HAS BEEN WIDESPREAD COMMENTARY AND PRESS COVERAGE ON THE ECONOMIC COOPERATION AGREEMENT. IN CONNECTION WITH INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT OF SIBERIA, ARTICLES 2 (AREAS OF FUTURE COOPERATION) AND 4 (ALLUSION TO COMPENSATION DEALS) HAVE RECEIVED THE GREATEST ATTENTION. END SUMMARY.

2. ACCORDING TO STATEMENTS MADE BY WOLFF VON AMERONGEN, CHAIRMAN OF THE EASTERN TRADE COMMITTEE, SOVIET UNCLASSIFIED

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MINISTERS TIKHONOV AND PATOLITCHEV DID NOT QUOTE PAINT THE BIG PICTURE UNQUOTE OF SIBERIA AS THEY HAD DONE FIVE YEARS AGO. IT WAS LEFT OPEN AS TO WHEN INDIVIDUAL PROJECTS WOULD BE IMPLEMENTED, I.E., SOON OR IN THE 1990'S. THE MINISTERS DID, HOWEVER, MAKE THE PROJECTS DEPENDENT ON COMPENSATION DEALS.

3. A FURTHER COMMENT BY A REPRESENTATIVE OF HOECHST AG, WARNED AGAINST AGREEING TO TOO LARGE COMPENSATION DEALS SUCH AS THOSE CURRENTLY STILL PENDING IN CONNECTION WITH THE TOMSK PROJECT. HE ENVISAGED REACHING THE STAGE WHERE IMPORTS OF CHEMICAL RAW MATERIALS FROM THE SOVIET UNION MIGHT BE GREATER THAN TOTAL FRG REQUIREMENTS, WHICH WOULD CAUSE TRADE PROBLEMS NOT ONLY FOR THE FRG BUT ALSO WITHIN THE EC.

4. THE CONTROVERSY HAS LED TO STATEMENTS BY ECONOMICS MINISTER LAMBSDORFF, ECONOMICS MINISTRY STATE SECRETARY ROHWEDDER AND WOLFF VON AMERONGEN CLAIMING THAT THE FRG WOULD NOT ACCEPT COUNTERTRADE DEALS WHICH WOULD MEAN A DOMESTIC LOSS OF JOBS. WOLFF GOES ON TO SUGGEST THAT THE LARGE PROJECTS, ESPECIALLY IN THE AREA OF RAW MATERIAL DEVELOPMENT, BE ADDRESSED MULTILATERALLY. IN DEALS WHERE PROCESSED GOODS ARE RECEIVED, HE SUGGESTS THAT THE LDC'S MIGHT BE A SUITABLE MARKET.

5. IN CONNECTION WITH RAW MATERIAL DEVELOPMENT, TIKHONOV SURPRISED THE ECONOMIC AND BUSINESS COMMUNITY BY SUGGESTING THE EXPLOITATION OF OIL AND NATURAL GAS RESOURCES IN THE SOVIET COASTAL AREAS THROUGH GERMAN TECHNOLOGY. THE OFFICIAL SPOKESMAN SAID THAT URANIUM SUPPLY WAS NOT DISCUSSED. (REPORTED SEP AIRGRAM).
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6. GENERALLY, THE AGREEMENT HAS BEEN GREETED WITH PERFUNCTORY OPTIMISM AS A HELPFUL ORIENTATION AND AS A SOURCE OF PRIOR KNOWLEDGE. HOWEVER, AS REPORTED REFTEL, IT DOES NOT EMBODY ANY SIGNIFICANT CHANGES FROM PAST AGREEMENTS.
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